Bangladeshi children in Mankhard Observation home

5498. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the news-item which appeared in Times of India (Mumbai edition) on April 6, 1995 under the caption '12 Bangladeshi children languishing in Mankhard observation home';

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government has taken up the issue with Central Government as well as the Bangladeshi Authorities, as the Bangladeshi children were being taken for camel racing; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in restoring these children to their parents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Maharashtra have reported that 3 Bangladeshi nationals alongwith 4 minor children were arrested on 22-11-90 because they were going to Dubai on false visas. Cases were registered against 3 Bangladeshi nationals and they have been deported to Bangladesh on 27-12-92 ater completion of their sentence. The 4 minor children are however still in Mankhard Observation Home. Again on 25 March 1992 Maharashtra Police arrested 9 Bangladeshis and 2 Indians for kidnapping 25 minor Bangladeshi children who were being taken to Dubai for the purpose of camel race. All the minor children were kept in safe custody. Seventeen of these children have since been handed over to the Bangladesh authorities. The remaining 8 minor Bangladeshi children have not been sent back so far because they have been identified as the children of the 9 Bangladeshis who are still in judicial custody. The Government of Maharashtra is constantly in touch with the concerned authorities for making arrangements for repatriation of the minor Bangladeshi children.

Instructions have been issued by the Government to the Immigration Authorities directing them to be more vigilant while scrutinising the travel documents of the persons (including Indians) accompanying minor children and/or minor brides before clearing them at the immigration counters.

Sarkaria Commission's recommendations

5499. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission for the selection of Governors and lay down guidelines for their functioning; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The Sub-Committee of the Inter-State Council has been entrusted with the examination of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. The Government would take a view on the various recommendations of the Commission after these have been considered by the Inter-State Council.

Afgani nationals in India

5500. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Afghanistani nationals staying India at present and whether any financial assistance is being given to them and if so, the details thereof;

(b) how long these persons would stay in India; and